

- (22) "Satisfactory evidence of a signer's identity" means identification of an individual based on either of the following:
 - a. At least one current document issued by a federal, state, or federal or state-recognized tribal government agency bearing the photographic image of the individual's face and either the signature or a physical description of the individual.
 - b. The oath or affirmation of one credible witness unaffected by the record or transaction who is personally known to the notary and who personally knows the individual seeking to be identified.
- (23) "Seal" and "stamp" mean a device for affixing on a paper record an image containing a notary's name, the words "notary public," and other information as required in G.S. 10B-24.
- (24) "Secretary" means the North Carolina Secretary of State or the Secretary's designee.
- (25) "Signature" means the act of personally signing one's name in ink by hand.
- (26) "Subscribing witness" means a person who either watches another individual sign a record or takes that individual's acknowledgment of an already-signed record and appears before the notary on behalf of the principal. The subscribing witness must sign the document in addition to the principal, must be personally known by the notary or prove identity to the notary by satisfactory evidence, and must take an oath or affirmation stating that he or she witnessed the principal sign.
- (27) "Suspension" and "restriction" means the termination of a notary's commission for a period of time stated in an order of restriction or suspension. The terms "restriction" or "suspension" or a combination of both terms shall be used synonymously.
- (28) "Verification" or "proof" means a notarial act where a person certifies under oath or affirmation that the person witnessed the principal either execute, record, or acknowledge the principal's signature on an already-executed record.

"Part 2. Commissioning.

"§ 10B-4. Qualifications.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, the Secretary shall commission as a notary any qualified person who submits an application in accordance with this Chapter.

(b) A person qualified for a notarial commission shall meet all of the following requirements:

- (1) Be at least 18 years of age or legally emancipated as defined in Article 35 of Chapter 7B of the General Statutes.
- (2) Reside or have a regular place of work or business in this State.
- (3) Reside legally in the United States.
- (4) Speak, read, and write the English language.
- (5) Possess a high school diploma or equivalent.
- (6) Pass the course of instruction described in this Article, unless the person is a licensed member of the North Carolina State Bar.
- (7) Purchase and keep as a reference the most recent manual approved by the Secretary that describes the duties and authority of notaries public.